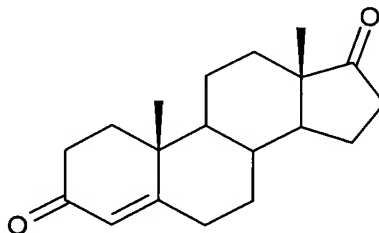


-Amendment to the Claims-

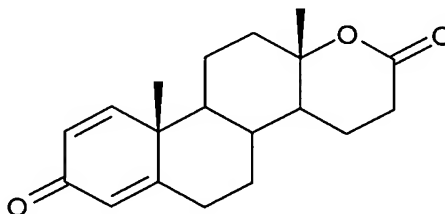
1 – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A method for the transformation of 4-androsten-3,17-dione, Formula I,



Formula I

to 17 α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione, Formula II



Formula II

comprising contacting a compound of Formula I in a bioconversion medium with *Fusarium solani* strain ATCC 46829, of producing 17 α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 3 wherein the substrate concentration is between 50 g/L and 70 g/L.

9. (Currently amended) A method of producing 17 α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione according to Claim 8 ~~3~~ further comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a primary seed culture of *Fusarium solani* ATCC46829;
- b) preparing a secondary seed culture from the culture of step a);
- c) inoculating a bioconversion medium with the culture of step b);
- d) adding micronized 4-androsten-3,17-dione to the bioconversion medium;
- e) monitoring the biotransformation for completion;
- f) collecting the solids of the bioconversion medium;
- g) extracting the solids; and
- h) isolating 17 α -oxo-*D*-homo-1,4-androstadiene-3,17-dione.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 9 ~~Claims 1-9~~ wherein the bioconversion medium contains a detergent and a natural oil.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 10 wherein the detergent is octylphenoxy polyethoxy ethanol and the natural oil is soybean oil.